

Recreation Meeting 1/9/2020

Attending: Drew McMorrow, Amy Smack, Courtney Miles Billetari, and Lynnette Kelleher

Review of Minutes

The minutes from the 11/19/19 minute were unanimously adopted without discussion.

Liaison reports

School Committee

Feedback from the school committee regarding the brick building is that the members do not see a need for it currently. They do want continuous access to the kiln, although the Reccom was unsure that this was actually in working order.

Reccom understands that Holly working with John Metivier to assess viability of repairs to floors, windows, bathroom fixtures. Metivier looking at whether there are lead paint concerns. We look forward to an update on these repairs and related issues at our next meeting.

Amy agreed to ask Holly to assess whether the kiln can be repaired at a reasonable cost.

The Reccom members still feel that we need a 3 year written assurance before putting in this amount of work into the building.

Master Steering

Master steering asked for a summary of our committee priorities. Amy prepared a response to their questionnaire about our priorities, the responses to which we reviewed and were all in agreement with.

People hosting “kitchen conversations” among citizens about priority areas. We are being asked for questions to add to the next survey; David Freedman inserted two relevant questions – about recreation facilities.

OS&RP

The work on the report work is underway; there is a lot for Reccom to do. We reviewed the priorities Reccom put together for the last report, and found that there are some that we have achieved (Banta path and field improvements) and some we have not (Additional fields, basketball courts, artificial turf).

OS&RP has suggested that they would like to conserve the Benfield land that has been set aside for Recreation; the Reccom members agreed that in contrast we would like to maintain its rights over this land. To inform our view, Reccom is going to organize a site visit to Benfield; Sarah Hart to guide us on the land. Possibilities there include tennis, community farming, or even a kayak launch.

Another exercise involves the OS&RP committee ranking the land they desire for acquisition. We discussed the need for a pond (for skating), and a sledding hill, and generally are supportive of land

acquisitions that are not in permanent conservation, because there is so little land town land that is unrestricted, there are demands on recreation land because of various town needs that cannot be served by permanent conservation lands.

COA

- Courtney to ask Lerman for an update

Long-term planning

We agreed that the adjusted version of our 2016 priorities is a good fit with our current priorities. These are approved for 2020.

We need to update pages for the OS&RP for these. Drew to write narrative form of priorities.

Dog Park Project

We reviewed plans to place a dog park near the Banta Softball field. We all agreed that an application to the Stanton Foundation was a sensible plan. We agreed that the next step was to draft a schematic of the park, and to build a consensus in support. Drew and Courtney are working on this, and then plan to hold meetings with the SC, Planning Board, and BOS to ensure that we have the support we need for our application.

Program update

- Ski program has dropped in attendance, likely because of last year's snowfall issues
- We discussed whether Yoga for various ages would be a successful program, and agreed to discuss with Holly at an upcoming meeting
- We discussed the need to obtain data to understand attendance at programs. Courtney agreed to look at the website data to see what could be done to extract it.

Ice Rink

Although the installation was timed perfectly, and froze well, in mid-December, it was still not successful. It warmed up and then it snowed, ruining the ice. The kids smashed the ice when it wasn't frozen, then the liner got wrecked by hockey pucks. It has since been repaired, now we will have fire department re-fill it next week.

Next meeting set for February 10. A site visit will be organized on a Saturday in March.